**First close viewing notes – Scenes 1-4.**

1. **What is the purpose of the opening scene? What do we learn from it?**

The introduction of Tessa, Justin and Arnold, and the suspicion that there might be something going on between Tessa and Justin. Justin’s “I’ll see you in a couple of days” makes us ask... “Will he really?”

*Introduces characters, sets scene, hints at conflict*

* *Justin, Tessa introduced (not by name); established as a couple; hints that all is not well.*
* *Arnold introduced by name; immediate questions about why he and Tessa are going without Justin*
* *setting established: Kenya (reference to Nairobi), and to the heat*
* *signpost: reference to Grace Makanga; later we will find out that she is coming to Nairobi, so creating doubts re Tessa's behaviour*

1. **What information is given in [2]? What is unusual about the way this information is given?**

The implication that someone from the previous scene had died... not made obvious or spelled out. The military – this is a dangerous area.

The motif of the birds swirling over the lake – a symbol of nature/leaving

*A vehicle has overturned in a lonely place near a lake; someone is dead (body bag); the beer bottle that is picked up tells us, in retrospect, that someone was waiting for the vehicle – so not an accident.*

*No dialogue – all told via visuals*

1. **How is the setting established in [3]?**

PAN from vehicle to the sign on the building which identifies it as the British High Commission in Kenya. The African soldier saluting in Long Shot

1. **What is the purpose of the final shot in [3]?**

ECU of Justin’s fingers pruning a succulent plant. Shows his character, the way that gardening is a solace or comfort to him, and the way that this shot has the AURAL BRIDGE to his talk in London – it is something that is constant in his life.

* **Analyse the camera work and editing of the opening three scenes.**

See p. 39

1. **[4] How is the shift in setting established?**

Justin's voice, lecturing, links the two scenes via an AURAL BRIDGE; when he is shown, initially he is taken out of place and time by the pale plain screen behind him. He is in a black suit, white shirt – drab business clothes. His voice lacks life, he stands without energy – could suggest follow on from previous. He is LS – distances us; shots of audience show them less than enthralled.

When he apologetically ends the speech, the blinds rise. He is in SHALLOW FOCUS, and then the focus deepens to reveal the scene behind him of London, with instantly recognisable landmarks: St Paul's Cathedral, the Millennium Bridge. The connotations of this scene are about colonial power and empire. The Foreign Office which Justin represents is a powerful institution.

Plus the shift to a cooler, greyer colour scheme, away from the brilliance of Africa.

1. **How do we know [4] is a flashback?**

Tessa and Justin do not know each other, becauseTessa introduces herself – and she is alive.

1. **Which important character is introduced by name?**

Sir Bernard Pellegrin

1. **What does Tessa's 'question' tell us about her?**

She is fearless and impassioned, a critic of establishment views. She is passionate, committed, politically aware, left wing, critical of her government; not afraid to speak up even when it seems to be unpopular; she is smart, clever, witty – ' politely take part in Vietnam, the sequel'; articulate, outspoken – 'so do Labradors'. Justin: "You were quite scary…"

1. **Quote the words Justin uses that go to the heart of one of the main themes of the film.**

*“… and that a nation's foreign policy... should not be determined by narrow* ***commercial*** *interests.” –* Justin explaining his view to Tessa – shows he essentially is on her side.

Also, “”*Diplomats go where they are told.”* This shows the idea of lack of responsibility – not owning one’s own behaviour.

1. **Tessa says to Justin, "You were protecting me." From what was he protecting her and how?**

Justin suggests: 'I think the questioner is making a valid point…' in response to the audience's impatience with her. He was protecting her from humiliation – and this theme of protecting each other continues throughout the film.